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# Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

OMB-01 /064 W
---------- 048225
R 240730Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 683
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
SINGAPORE 4913
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

LIMITE OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 4313

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, MY
SUBJ: SABAH DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KL 4253

1. SABAH POLITICAL CRISIS CONTINUES TO SIMMER. BERJAYA DELEGA-
TION, HEADED BY PARTY PRESIDENT DATUK HARRIS SALLEH, HELD PRESS
CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR JUL 22 IN WHICH HE PRESSED CASE FOR
BERJAYA MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL FRONT (REFTEL), REITERATED CALL
FOR FREE AND UNFETTERED STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, AND ALLEGED
THAT CHIEF MINISTER TUN MUSTAPHA IN FACT INTENDED TO TAKE SABAH
OUT OF FEDERATION. HARRIS SAID MUSTAPHA WANTED EARLY ELECTIONS
IN SABAH IN WHICH HE WOULD PREVENT OPPOSITION CANDIDATES FROM
RUNNING; HAVING OBTAINED "OVERWHELMING" POPULAR MANDATE,
MUSTAPHA THEN PLANNED "UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDPEN-
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DENCE" FROM MALAYSIA.

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2. MUSTAPHA, MEANWHILE, ISSUED CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF STATE ASSEMBLY. IN STATEMENT JUL 23, MUSTAPHA SAID HE INTENDS SEEK "VOTE OF CONFIDENCE" OF ASSEMBLY -- IN WHICH HE STILL HAS MAJORITY -- TO REAFFIRM HIS POSITION AS CHIEF MINISTER AND TO PASS RESOLUTION PROHIBITING SABAH'S SECESSION FROM FEDERATION. HE THEN DISPATCHED STATE GOVT OFFICIALS TO K.L. TO OBTAIN SIGNATURE OF CHIEF OF STATE, TUN MOHAMED FUAD/DONALD STEPHENS, ON WRIT CONVENING ASSEMBLY.

3. WE HAVE OBTAINED A COPY OF DOCUMENT ALLEGEDLY SUBMITTED BY MUSTAPHA TO APR 23 MEETING OF UNITED SABAH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (USNO), ATTENDED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN, AT WHICH SECESSION POSSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED (SEE K.L. 3234). DOCUMENT, NOW BEING WIDELY CIRCULATED HERE AND IN SABAH, ALLEGES THAT SABAH IN LONG RUN WILL LOSE REVENUES FROM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, TIMBER AND MINERAL RESOURCES (COPPER, IRON, NICKEL, GOLD AND OIL) AND STATE'S "AUTONOMY WILL GRADUALLY BE TAKEN BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THINKS IT NECESSARY TO DO SO." IT CONTINUES THAT SABAH'S RIGHTS UNDER FEDERATION AGREEMENT (SEE KL A-196, 11/1/73) ARE NOT GUARANTEED AND WOULD LIKELY BE MAINTAINED ONLY AS LONG AS MUSTAPHA IS CHIEF MINISTER. DOCUMENT THEN LISTED TWO FACTORS MILITATING AGAINST SECESSION: SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER AND LACK OF MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, HENCE STATE COULD NOT DEFEND ITSELF. DOCUMENT CONCLUDES BY LEAVING IT UP TO USNO LEADERS WHETHER TO REMAIN IN FEDERATION OR FOR SABAH "TO HAVE ITS OWN INDEPENDENCE AS SINGAPORE ."
(COPIES OF DOCUMENT WILL BE SENT EA/IMS AND INR/REA.)

4. COMMENT: AT THIS JUNCTURE, IT IS NOW KNOWN WHETHER FUAD/STEPHENS WILL SIGN DECREE FOR CONVENING STATE ASSEMBLY -- A MOVE THAT WOULD STRENGTHEN MUSTAPHA'S HAND -- OR DECLARE STATE ELECTIONS AS BERJAYA WANTS. MOST PERPLEXING THUS FAR HAS BEEN FAILURE OF PRIME MINISTER RAZAK AND FEDERAL GOVT TO TAKE STANDS ON BERJAYA OR USNO MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL FRONT AND ON ELECTIONS. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT SOME TYPE OF USNO/BERJAYA CALITION MOVE, WITH OR WITHOUT MUSTAPHA, IS UNDERWAY.
WILSON, ACTING

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# Message Attributes

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**Subject:** SABAH DEVELOPMENTS
**TAGS:** PINT, MY, (TUN MUSTAPHA)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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